



Goodbye & Good Luck!

August 2010

A Newsletter for Department of Government Alumni and Friends



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Gary P. Freeman, Chair

Letter from the Chair

"We should become the nation's most important source of expertise about Latin America," declared former University of Texas President Larry Faulkner in his first State of the University address on Oct. 6, 1998.

By prioritizing Latin American studies, Faulkner was harnessing one of the uni-

versity's assets – physical proximity to a region of strategic importance to the United States and Texas.

Faulkner's initiative has helped support the Department of Government's own Latin American boom over the last decade. The department now houses a full time faculty of eight Latin American specialists, many of whom are also affiliated with the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS), and hosts an internationally diverse student body from the region.

Most telling, the department's graduate students are excelling, having published 12 articles related to Latin America in leading academic journals since 2005.

This was the vision of philanthropists Joe and Teresa Lozano Long when they announced in 2000 a \$10 million gift to endow Latin American studies at the university, stating: "We hope that this investment will help attract the very top graduate students from the United States and Latin America."

The department's graduate students have published articles on such topics as the effect of international migration on democracy, the relationships between partisanship and fiscal policies, citizen disenchantment with democracy, social sector reform, judicial reform, bureaucratic autonomy, judicial independence, judicial activism, and corruption.

Most of these authors have benefited from the Latin America student-faculty working group, which the department's Latin America specialists convene periodically to review and critique proposed article manuscripts or dissertations.

The department's Latin Americanist graduate students also have exhibited success on the job market. Recent graduates have obtained tenure-track jobs at high-caliber liberal arts colleges, such as Bates College in Maine and Rhodes College of Tennessee, as well as good research universities, such as the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City, the University of Miami, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Moreover, the strong publishing track record of the current group of Latin Americanists should ensure that they remain highly competitive on the job market in the years ahead.

This is all bolstered by a highly active faculty. In the last ten years, they have collectively published a dozen books in some of the most prestigious presses in the field. The faculty has also published more articles in the journals *Comparative Politics* and *World Politics*, over the last five years, than professors from any other school in the country. Most of the articles have been written by the department's Latin American specialists.

The study of Latin American politics has a long and distinguished history at UT-Austin dating to the early 20th century. Recent history reveals key figures such as Karl Schmitt, Larry Graham, and Henry Dietz. Schmitt retired in 1988 after teaching in the department for 30 years and serving as chair. Larry Graham came to the university in 1965, helped found the university's Brazil Center, and served as the Vice President for International Programs, before retiring several years ago. He is now professor emeritus but continues teaching courses on public policy in the LBJ School. Dietz, who joined the Department in 1972, remains active and continues to receive accolades for his teaching as a member of the university's prestigious Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Farsighted administrative leadership along with the philanthropy of Department of Government alumnus Joe Long and his wife, Teresa Lozano Long, have enabled the department to build its expertise in the region in recent years. In 1999, Raúl Madrid joined the department, followed shortly thereafter

by Wendy Hunter, Kurt Weyland (now the Lozano Long Professor of Latin American Politics), Kenneth Greene, Juliet Hooker, Daniel Brinks, and Zachary Elkins (who was hired as a public law specialist but has considerable expertise in Latin America). UT-Austin now boasts more Latin America specialists than any political science department in the country.

One of the department's specific areas of expertise is democratization. In recent issues of the journal *Comparative Political Studies*, Kenneth Greene, Zachary Elkins and Kurt Weyland, in separate articles, provided crash courses on how democratic government takes or does not take hold across the world. This is path-breaking work on one of the key issues of our time.

But, the current group of scholars has broad expertise, in countries ranging from Argentina and Brazil in the southern cone to Bolivia and Peru in the Andes and Nicaragua and Mexico in Central and North America. These scholars are also known for their methodological pluralism. They employ methods ranging from ethnographies and qualitative case studies to statistical analyses and mathematical models. Topics under investigation include the rise of left wing parties, racial and ethnic politics, the judiciary and the rule of law, the diffusion of democracy, specific constitutional models, and economic and social policy reforms that have swept across multiple regions of the world, including Latin America.

With the largest Latin American institute (LLILAS) and the most important Latin American library (the Benson collection) in the country, the Department of Government is poised to remain among the top departments producing scholarship on the region.



LEFTIST GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA

SUCCESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS



▲ A new volume edited by Kurt Weyland, Raúl Madrid and Wendy Hunter

A Community of Interests

The idea behind this newsletter is really quite simple: nothing is more impressive than the University of Texas at Austin, the Department of Government, and our alumni. If we have convinced you of anything, we hope it is that this department's alumni, students, and faculty have interesting things to say, and that we all stand to benefit from sharing our insights and disseminating them throughout the community. Please join us as we continue building our legacy.

– Stuart Tendler, editor

The Budget Gap: Lessons from Colorado

By Alexis Senger, B.A. 1985



Like Texas, Colorado's constitution requires a balanced budget. Colorado balanced General Fund shortfalls of \$0.8 billion in FY 2008-09, \$2.2 billion in FY 2009-10, and \$1.3 billion in FY 2010-11, and we've done so while largely maintaining state services. We used a host of measures, including strengthening tax code compliance, reducing tax credits and exemptions, transferring cash funds into the General Fund, fee increases, and program reductions, but we did it on schedule with no debt and no new taxes. The General Assembly for the most part approved the proposals put forward by the Governor.

Lessons Learned:

When it rains, it pours. A distressed economy means General Fund revenues falter at the same time that more people qualify for and seek state Medicaid services, more people go back to school (increasing higher education expenses), and more crimes are committed (increasing correctional system costs). Downturns force states to do more with less money.

Rainy Day funds are helpful... unless it's a monsoon. Reserves help with short-term fluctuations between fiscal years or short-term downturns – but next year hasn't looked better for a long time.

"The future isn't what it used to be." In today's environment, past experience is virtually useless and Yogi Berra's quote is apt for revenue forecasting. Using the rearview mirror to drive forward can create a collision between your revenue and expenditure estimates.

Please don't thank me. If you are balancing a budget, you will never be the hero, you will only be the goat. If interest groups lined up to help you spend new resources, you won't be hearing from them when times are tough. It's reminiscent of those empty streets in an old Twilight Zone episode where there's no one left save one lonely man. Leaders need to remember that budgeting is the ultimate test of tradeoffs. It's unthinkable to cut education. But if it's 45-50 percent of your budget, if you don't touch it you will have to cut healthcare more. Or human services. Or higher education. Or public safety. So acknowledge that you are going to be cutting good programs. It's going to hurt.

Money is green, not red or blue. Communicating with legislators, the public, and all interested stakeholders, including community interest and lobbying organizations, is imperative. Our governor's budget director worked tirelessly behind the scenes and we never sent a budget to the Statehouse that would surprise upon arrival.

Invest during good times – investments are hard to justify during downturns. After Bill Ritter became governor in 2006, we introduced the Governor's Crime Prevention and Recidivism Reduction Plan. In FY 2008-09 the Plan requested about \$6.6 million, with the goal of saving more than \$17 million over five years. In FY 2009-10 we requested almost \$10.6 million, with the goal of saving more than \$44 million over five years, plus the capital savings which would arise from not having to build a new prison. Once revenues began plummeting, however, portions of the Recidivism Reduction Package were among the first cut because they were so new and programs were still being implemented.

The June 2010 quarterly economic forecast points toward more budget balancing in FY 2011-12, and possibly more in FY 2010-11. We'll roll up our sleeves (again), and while those vying for office argue that state government is wasteful, but bring no specifics, we'll have specifics, and we'll deliver them on time, and with no debt and no new taxes.

Stem Cell Research and Texas

By Charles Schotz, B.A. 1967

Today we are witnessing a tremendous breakthrough in medical science and research. Stem cells have generated unprecedented excitement in medical research because of their well-founded promise to treat many major health issues, a wide range of sporting and physical injuries, and assist in surgery recovery. Stem cells are also the motivation for a young generation of research scientists and the stimulus for new thriving commercial opportunities. The best and the brightest students will seek institutions that are conducting this exciting research, and new technologies developed at our schools will be translated into new businesses.

Stem cell awareness has been growing in Texas and Austin since early 2000. In 2007, several individuals, myself included, with personal commitments to promoting safe and ethical stem cell research and therapy in Texas founded Texans for Stem Cell Research (TSCR). By 2008, TSCR received its 501(c)3 nonprofit designation. This allowed the organization to pursue its primary goal of educating our fellow Texans on stem cell research in Texas.

TSCR educates policymakers and fellow Texans on the medical and potential economic benefits of this research. A 2009 economic impact study by Dr. Bernard Weinstein of Southern Methodist University stated that Texas could realize more than 230,000 new jobs and \$1.3 billion annually in new state and local taxes from biotech and biomedical companies relocating to the Lone Star State to conduct stem cell research. Considering today's economic conditions it is imperative that state and academic leaders take advantage of this unique opportunity. By establishing a world class stem cell institute in Texas dedicated to conducting FDA clinically approved trials, Texans can benefit from this research for generations to come.

The University of Texas is at the forefront of stem cell research in Texas. Currently, 206 of the over 450 stem cell clinical trials being conducted in Texas are at UT Health Science Center facilities. These trials include spinal disorders, diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.



TSCR is working to help increase the number of these trials and thus the number of people receiving stem cell therapy. As educated alumni of UT and citizens of Texas, it's in our best interest to support organizations like TSCR, and others across the country, to realize the promise of stem cell research.

Many other states are making strong commitments to stem cell research. Nine other states, including Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts, currently fund stem cell research. California leads the way having appropriated, in 2006, \$3 billion for 10 years. If Texas is serious about reestablishing itself as a leader in this field, our elected officials should support the University of Texas' academic and health science centers by giving them the necessary funding to move forward.

University of Texas alumni do not like being second to anyone. But right now we've fallen behind eight other states which have recognized the enormous potential of stem cell research. We can continue ignoring reality or choose to rightfully reinstate Texas as a leader in medical research. As a University of Texas alumnus and a founding board member of TSCR, I feel strongly that it is the responsibility of our state leaders, policymakers, and the University of Texas System to take a leadership role and give hope for a better quality of life to more than 1.2 million Texans living with a chronic disease or life altering injury.

Leading stem cell scientists, doctors, researchers, legislative leaders and a nationally recognized economist from Texas will participate in the Texas Stem Cell Research Symposium at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center on Wednesday, October 27, 2010. For more information about the symposium please contact David L. Bales at (<http://www.txstemcell.org>) or (512) 797-2703.

Commercial Banks and the Great Recession

By Jeffrey Friedman, Visiting Scholar

What caused the financial crisis? That may seem like a question that was answered long ago: greedy bankers, financial deregulation, irrational exuberance—right?

Not according to a book I've just coauthored with German economist Wladimir Kraus, which the University of Pennsylvania Press will publish next year as *Engineering the Perfect Storm*.

This book originated in my role as the editor of *Critical Review*, an interdisciplinary political-science journal. *Critical Review* published a special issue on the causes of the crisis in 2009, and in writing my introduction to it, I noticed that most of the economists who contributed papers to the volume assumed, but did not prove, that the crisis was caused by bankers whose “incentives” led them to deliberately take excessive risks. But the evidence pointed not to simple incentives stories of the type that economists love, but to incentives created by institutional (legal) structures as the cause of the crisis—particularly the international Basel accords on bank capital.

The Basel accords set “capital ratios” for commercial banks, like Citigroup. Commercial banks are the key to understanding how the financial crisis caused the Great Recession. It's commercial banks, not investment banks, that lend money to businesses—and their lending began drying up in the summer of 2007, long before investment banks were brought down by the panic over the value of mortgage-backed bonds. The summer of 2007 is also when unemployment began to rise. So I teamed up with Kraus, a Ph.D. student at the University of Aix-en-Provence, to help navigate the complexities of commercial banks' capital ratios.

The American financial regulators (such as the FDIC) issued a version of the Basel accords in 2002 - the Recourse Rule - that tied banks' capital requirements to the ratings of the securities they bought.



If the securities were rated AAA, banks needed 80 percent less capital than otherwise. And sure enough, banks began to accumulate mortgage-backed bonds rated AAA just when the Recourse Rule went into effect. These are the same mortgage-backed bonds that ruined the banks. Kraus and I found that all of the commercial banks' mortgage-backed bonds were rated AAA. What's remarkable is that lower-rated bonds,

being riskier, were more lucrative. If bankers were trying to goose revenue, heedless of risk, in order to get higher bonuses, they'd never have bought AAA bonds instead of BBB bonds. So much for the greedy bankers theory and the irrational exuberance theory. Bankers were soberly buying the “safest” and least lucrative bonds—because these were the ones privileged by the Recourse Rule.

I view this book as right in the mainstream of political science, even though it's coauthored by an economist and a normative theorist. The best thing about political science is that it's empirically grounded—far more than economics. In fact, Kraus is so impressed with our empirical orientation that he's starting over as a political scientist himself next year, specializing in political economy.

My next book tries to marry the empirical and the normative sides of political science. It's about the difficulty of making good decisions in the face of the modern world's complexity. Notice what happened to the bankers: they blundered, and so did the regulators. Well, that regularly happens to ignorant beings like us; only economists think human errors are really money-making schemes!

So how is a polity supposed to deal with human ignorance? My answer is that the traditional normative-theory answer—dialogue, deliberation—is no substitute for direct experimentation, such as we can undertake in the private sphere. So the book is a defense of the private sphere and, more generally, of the unreflective life. It should be even more controversial than *Engineering the Perfect Storm*.

There's No Place Like Home

By Mary Josie Blanchard, B.A. 1969, M.A. 1971



The Department of the Interior (DOI) was created March 3, 1849, the last day of the Polk Administration, and given a variety of responsibilities previously belonging to the Treasury, State and War Departments. These included such activities as issuing pensions, patents, and land grants; surveying public lands, overseeing Indian Affairs, the Federal Court system, mines and public buildings; and conducting the census. Thus, DOI was to be a “Home Department” to deal with matters within the United States.

For the next several decades, as the government grew, DOI received more and more functions. Functions were as varied as constructing the District of Columbia’s water system; managing hospitals, universities, and the D.C. jail; and exploring and mapping geological and mineral resources. DOI provided lands for homesteads, railroads and land grant colleges. Territorial affairs were assigned to DOI in 1873. Eventually 13 States were created from those territories. DOI also implemented The Indian Allotment Act of 1887, which gave Tribal lands to individual Indians, resulting in the loss of much of the Indian tribal land base.

As the years went by, the DOI also became the ‘Mother of Departments’, as various functions spun off to become the nuclei of other departments. New departments that had their origins in DOI were Agriculture, Labor, Commerce, Energy, Education, and Veterans Affairs.

During the early 20th century, DOI became increasingly the focus of natural resources conservation and public land management. President Theodore Roosevelt set aside major parcels of land that later became National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges. In the 1930s and 1940s, large multi-purpose projects supplied water and opened new areas to agriculture. Laws provided for Interior to protect wildlife, to regulate grazing and mining, and to provide citizenship to American Indians.

As steward of 20 percent of the Nation’s lands, DOI now manages mineral and energy development on the Nation’s public lands and Outer Continental Shelf; oversees nationwide coal surface mine land reclamation; is the largest supplier and manager of water in the Western United States; and upholds Federal trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives. Additionally, the Department is responsible for wildlife conservation; historic preservation, endangered species conservation; mapping, geological, hydrological and biological science for the Nation; and providing financial and technical assistance to remaining territories.

DOI’s richly diverse missions (e.g., preservation, multiple use, visitation and resource development) are both complementary and potentially conflicting. Moreover, how the land is managed within DOI’s boundaries can affect surrounding communities. Thus, cooperating with State, local and tribal governments and across Federal agencies is a must.

As you can tell, I find working at the Department of the Interior to be fascinating and rewarding.

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author, not the Department of the Interior.

The Study and Practice of Politics

By Abril Davila, B.A. 2009



I have had a strong interest in politics and government ever since I can remember. From a very young age, I have been concerned with civic participation and political leadership. The choice of Government as my major came naturally to me. Yet, despite my deep and innate academic love for this subject, as an undergraduate I still felt I needed to gain first-hand experience in the political profession.

My first opportunity to do so came with my participation in the Government Department internship program. With the outstanding direction of Dr. James Henson, the internship program gives students interested in politics the opportunity to acquire real professional experience in a political organization, while reflecting on their experience academically. The result of this approach is a deeper, and highly personal, understanding of the political profession, contemporary politics, and political leadership.

The political organization I had the pleasure to intern for was the Rick Noriega for U.S. Senate Campaign. As a Noriega intern I had the opportunity to jump into a statewide race for federal office, something I did not take lightly. I initially participated in the minor tasks of most departments of the campaign; these involved blockwalking, phonebanking, staffing campaign events, and participating in some field and communications strategies to increase campaign visibility. It was a priceless opportunity to learn how political campaigns operate from within, but also to discover my own political capabilities and strengths. During campaign events and fundraisers, it became evident that focusing on the campaign message, and on the dialogue it generates, deeply interested me. Within a few months of working with Team Noriega, I found my campaigning niche – communications and press. I have had the opportunity to continue working in this area of campaigning, especially in the field of Hispanic communications, a topic which I am particularly passionate about. And my experience with the Noriega campaign continues to inform and influence my work.

As the months progressed, I became convinced that political campaigns are just the most amazing workplaces. There is usually a contagious energy emerging from the camaraderie, stimulating exchange of ideas, and the constant anticipation for the next big news, events, and, of course, the next big YouTube clip. Yet, the Spring of 2008 was a particularly special time for Texas politics. Presidential primary contests were in full force at the national level. And in an unprecedented fashion, it seemed that presidential nominations might not be exclusively determined by the early primaries. As the March 4th Texas Primary approached, political momentum in our state just seemed to grow by the minute. Participating in this particular electoral season gave me the opportunity to understand the role of contemporary political campaigns in a deeper way. I learned that an authentically successful political campaign will utilize modern and traditional tools of political communication to lead a dynamic and constructive conversation about substantive goals. Energizing voters merely for the purpose of winning is just not enough; our civic responsibility entails a larger obligation.

The internship program was an unforgettable, inspiring and constructive experience. It enabled me not only to comprehend politics more deeply, but to gain a clearer understanding of my personal relationship to the political profession. I highly recommend it to any student interested in transforming their academic knowledge and intellectual convictions into real political action. My participation in the program allowed me to realize that political leadership is not driven by ideology alone, but, as Max Weber wrote, by the “consciousness that life has meaning in the service of a cause.”

Inside the Beltway

By Sean Theriault, Associate Professor

For the last 9 years, I have taken a group of undergraduate researchers to Washington, D.C. The students are all part of my undergraduate research team. This past year, for the first time, I combined forces with Professor Bryan Jones to offer a year-long research course. About one-half of the students' obligation is to help us conduct our research. The second half of their obligation is to write-up an original research paper using the data that they have gathered for us. The students present their research during UT's Research Week every spring.



We take the trip to Washington, D.C., so that the students can match their data gathering efforts to the real work of politics in the Nation's Capital. The meetings that we had on our 2010 trip were typical of meetings we have had in the past. In our meetings with the Chiefs-of-Staff to Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, to Minority Leader John Boehner, and to Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus, we learned how the legislative process works behind the scenes. In our meetings with a researcher at the Congressional Research Service, a legislative counsel at the House Legislative Counsel's Office, and the House Parliamentarian, we learned how Congress has come to rely upon a group of nonpartisan professionals to effectively and efficiently accomplish the tasks at hand. In our meetings with a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center and the archivists at Legislative Records at the National Archives we learned how it is that scholars observe the process and what we can learn from their observations. Finally, in our meeting with a special assistant to President Obama we learned how decision-making happens in a modern, heavily bureaucratic institution.

During the meetings, the students get to learn about politics from the behind the scenes, both figuratively

and, this year, literally. This year we were fortunate enough to visit both the Democratic and Republican Cloakrooms in the House of Representatives. Both in who we meet and what they show us, our eyes are opened and we have a newfound respect for both the political process and the professionals who make it work.

Most important from my perspective, though, is that the students get to see if the theories that they have been working on all year bear out in the way that politics is practiced in Washington. By the end of our trip, the students come away with a greater appreciation for both politics and political science. They appreciate politics more because they see how smoothly it works outside the spotlight of the television camera. While blowhard politicians are engaging in partisan battles in front of the media, their staffs are figuring out how to get the details right so that the legislation, when passed, will actually do what it is supposed to. They appreciate political science more because they see how well our theories (and their own) hold up inside the real world of politics.

Perhaps the aspect of the trip that I enjoy most is when my former researchers meet with my current students. My research alums are in a number of different Capitol Hill offices, lobby groups, campaign organizations, and interest groups throughout Washington. The current students' eyes are opened to all of the various jobs that are available upon their own graduation from UT with a Government degree. In a couple of instances, my former researchers have even hired my current researchers!

All of this could not be possible without the generous support of Mr. George Mitchell and the University Co-Op, the University's Vice President for Research Juan Sanchez, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies Paul Woodruff, the Dean of Liberal Arts Randy Diehl, and Chairman of the Government Department Gary Freeman.

Ballonteeing for Barack

By Stuart Hersh, M.A. 1975

2008 was the year I volunteered for the Barack Obama for President campaign. I knew from previous campaigns that this would be hard work. I never knew I would have a ball working as a volunteer. So I invented a new word to describe the experience of having a ball while volunteering for a political campaign: 'ballonteeing'.



Before the 2008 presidential campaign began, I knew who I was going to support for the Democratic Party nomination. In 2004, I had supported Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina for President. His talk of two Americas and his life story resonated with me. John Edwards' father was a factory worker. My Dad had worked as an electrician in a textile mill and a tire plant for more than 30 years. Edwards spoke about my America, where many families and friends lived paycheck to paycheck. They had to choose between rent/mortgage, food, medical care, heating and cooling, water and lights. So when John Edwards announced that he would run for President in 2008, I knew that I would support him financially and in other ways. I had been a precinct and county delegate for Edwards in 2004, and would try to do this again.

In the summer of 2007, I attended Edward's packed rally at Scholz's in Austin with my partner Roxann and one of my sons (Alan). I was thrilled to see Edwards in person. Both Roxann and Alan had attended Obama's rally of more than 20,000 on Town Lake a few months earlier, and I had chosen to stay home. With Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama as the likely frontrunners for the Democratic Party nomination, I expected John Edwards to be competitive in Iowa and other states. I expected Edwards and other candidates to stay in the race until the convention in Denver. I thought Edwards' supporters would play a key role in choosing the Democratic Party nominee for president at the Denver convention. Like so many assumptions I would make during this campaign, I was wrong!

John Edwards finished second to Barack Obama in the Iowa caucuses. He could not win New Hampshire, Nevada or South Carolina. His poor showings meant that the campaign could not raise enough money to stay competitive in the caucuses and primaries. So when Edwards dropped out of the race before Super Tuesday, my choice was to support either Clinton or Obama.

Since I was a member and former officer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1624 (the city employees' union), it was logical for me to support the presidential candidate that AFSCME supported. AFSCME was providing the Clinton campaign with significant resources in the primaries, and there was the possibility I could work in the Clinton campaign as funding for my City job went away. The conventional wisdom was that Clinton would lock up the nomination by Super Tuesday, and it would be to my political advantage to join the Clinton campaign before Super Tuesday.

But I decided to support Obama because his campaign was not the conventional Democratic Party politics I had seen for more than four decades. I read his first book, and his story resonated with me just as John Edwards' story had four years earlier. My decision to support Obama was clinched when my son Alan decided to go to New Mexico with a friend to work for Obama in the days leading up to Super Tuesday. I told my fellow AFSCME members that I was going to work for Obama.

This is an excerpt from a much longer memoir chronicling campaign work in New Mexico.

Next Stop, Graduate School

By Rex W. Douglass, B.A. 2007

My dissertation advisors like to joke that Ph.D. programs are vocational schools. You enter relatively young, inexperienced, and with a general curiosity about the world, but with few skills. Over five years, you learn how to answer questions in a rigorous way, you hone in on a specific gap in human knowledge, and you become socialized to interact and work with others in your field, so that one day, if you are lucky, you might get an actual job.



A bachelor's degree in Government from The University of Texas at Austin can be a gateway to many different careers, but for me it meant going on to a Ph.D. program in political science. For anyone considering a similar path, there are a number of helpful things to know about both graduate school and the opportunities available to undergraduates at UT-Austin.

The narrow gap that I have focused on for my dissertation at Princeton is whether wars generate lasting changes in the local politics of the areas in which they are fought and, if so, how? If there is the potential to anger and politically energize an opponent's population, how should that be taken into account by policy makers when they decide whether or not to go to war? My search for evidence has led me to dusty military campaign maps from American and European archives, county voting records from the 1800s, and interviews with military officers and civilians in Afghanistan.

Training in the two tools of the trade that I use most often, statistical inference and historical archival research, is readily available to UT undergrads. I started with the department's undergraduate introduction to statistics and continued with the next two graduate courses in the sequence. The Government Department has a number of professors that do excellent historical research, but I also found great mentors at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and in the History Department. Every student should experience researching at the LBJ Library at least once, and I recommend strongly considering studying World War Two in the History Department's Normandy Scholars Program.

The department's option to write a thesis is a must if you are considering graduate school. The thesis helps you decide if research is something that interests you and also gives you a specific point of reference for befriending professors and eventually asking for recommendation letters. If you can, write the thesis a year early and polish it for your writing sample. This also frees up time for studying for the GRE and preparing the surprisingly time-consuming graduate school applications.

The size of the Government Department is an advantage to students who want to pursue research. There are often professors in need of paid research assistance. There is large cohort of smart graduate students who were just recently in the same position you will find yourself in. There are multiple venues for presenting your ideas, like the Junior Fellows Research Program. Not to mention, UT-Austin has sources for undergraduate research funding, like the Bridging Disciplines Program, Rapoport King Thesis Scholarship, and many more.

In sum, UT-Austin has something for everyone, including Government majors considering going on to graduate school. Whether you want to get a doctorate or a master's in public policy, UT-Austin is well-positioned to help you on your journey. I consider myself very lucky to have had the opportunity to study there.

Whither State Affairs?

By Stuart M. Tendler, B.A. 2001, M.A. 2007



Although partially enjoined by a U.S. District Court, Arizona has enacted the country's most anti-immigrant legislation to date. The last couple of years, public opinion in Texas has recorded immigration as an extremely salient issue and been significantly restrictive in its leanings. Leo Berman, a member of the Texas House of Representatives from Tyler, has already announced his intention to introduce Arizona-like legislation during the next legislative session. Can we expect Berman's campaign to succeed? Maybe, maybe not.

In 2007, no less than 23 restrictive immigration bills were referred to the House Committee on State Affairs. Five bills actually were voted out of committee, including a border security bill, but, after moving through the full Legislature, a last minute point of order stopped the bill from moving to the governor's desk. The other four bills that made it out of committee were never taken up by the full House.

In 2009, no less than 21 restrictive immigration bills were referred to State Affairs. One bill, HB 276, which called for state agencies to report the costs of services and benefits provided to undocumented immigrants, made it out of committee, but it never made it to the floor of the House. The largest mobilization occurred around HB 48, which would have amended the state labor code, prohibited knowingly employing a person not lawfully present in the country, and suspended the business licenses of employers found in violation. A hearing was held, but no subsequent action was taken. The other 20 bills were mostly dead on arrival, though a handful received hearings.

Berman introduced several bills in 2009, and all of them could fairly be labeled as non-immigrant-friendly bills. What happened to each of these bills? They were all referred to State Affairs, where they died, never reaching the floor of the full House for a vote.

The Committee on State Affairs enjoys jurisdiction over most immigration-related legislation, and last session it was stacked to ensure no legislation too unfriendly to immigrants made it through alive. A key question going into next legislative session is who will comprise the membership of this all-important committee?

In 2007, there were nine representatives on the committee. Four of these nine were very active in trying to push anti-immigrant legislation out of the committee. They were mostly unsuccessful, and in 2009 they lost their committee assignments. They were replaced with an expanded committee of 15 members, the majority of who could be relied on to oppose restrictive laws: Latino Democrats, farmers, restaurateurs, real estate brokers – the kind of folks who tend to support liberal and expansive immigration policies. And not a single restrictive measure made it out of committee.

But, for 2011, there will be guaranteed turnover in the committee, so it remains a big question what the committee will look like. David Swinford, who represented a meatpacking district in the Panhandle and was committee chairman in 2007, is out of politics. Delwin Jones, a Lubbock farmer, lost his primary election. David Farabee, a Democrat from Wichita Falls, is out of politics. Diana Maldonado, in Williamson County, is expected to face a tough general election.

The committee was so stacked last year that it is possible none of this will matter, but we'll see. With immigration running neck-and-neck with the economy on the public's list of concerns, the House leadership could be tempted to appoint a sympathetic committee. One thing is sure – as goes the State Affairs committee, so goes immigration policy in Texas.

In Memoriam: James R. Roach



The Department of Government is sorry to report the passing of James Roach, Government professor emeritus.

Jim had a long and distinguished career that included prize-winning teaching in international relations, South Asian politics, and U.S. foreign policy.

A veteran of World War Two, where he accompanied General MacArthur on his return to the Philippines and personally strode to shore to plant the American flag on one of the islands, Jim received his Ph.D. from Harvard and taught at Texas beginning in 1949.

Roach held several administrative positions at the University, interrupted his academic life to spend four years as cultural attaché in the American embassy in New Delhi, and built and maintained close friendships with hundreds of former students around the globe.

In 2000, the James R. Roach Endowed Fund in American Foreign Relations was established in his honor.